What is claimed is: <u>C L A I M S</u>

1 - Polyethylene-based composition, characterized in that the polyethylene exhibits a standard density, measured at 23°C according to ASTM Standard D 972, of greater than 940 kg/m^3 and in that it comprises talc in an amount of less than 1 part per 100 parts by weight of polyethylene.

2 - Polyethylene-based composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the talc exhibits an essentially lamellar texture.

3 - Polyethylene-based composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the talc exhibits a particle size distribution situated between 0.2 and 15 microns and a mean particle size between 1 and 5 microns.

4 - Polyethylene-based composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the amount of talc is between 0.05 and 0.25 part per 100 parts by weight of polyethylene.

5 - Polyethylene-based composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the polyethylene is chosen from ethylene homopolymers and copolymers containing, in total, from 0.01 to 10 mole % of comonomers exhibiting a standard density of greater than 943 kg/m^3 and not exceeding 960 kg/m^3 and a melt flow index, measured at 190°C under a load of 5 kg according to ISO Standard 1133 (1991), of 0.07 to 5 g/10 min.

6 - Polyethylene-based composition according to Claim 5, characterized in that the polyethylene is chosen from ethylene copolymers containing, in total, from 0.05 to 5 mole % of butene and/or of hexene.

7 - Polyethylene-based composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that it is in the form of extruded granules.

8 - Process for the manufacture of shaped articles from the composition in accordance with Claim 1.

9 - Process for the manufacture of shaped articles according to Claim 8, characterized in that it is applied to the extrusion of pipes, in particular pipes intended for the transportation of pressurized fluids, or to the injection of pipe couplings.

5   10 - Pipes shaped by extrusion of a composition according to Claim 1.

11 - Pipe couplings shaped by injection of a composition according to Claim 1.